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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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POSSIBILITY OF WEEKEND VIOLENCE IN VENEZUELA

Uprisings and possibly a petroleum strike will occur this weekend to protest the convening on 9 January of the "illegal" Constituent Assembly, according to rumors in Caracas and the western oilfield area. Leaflets ask that the "duly elected" assembly meet later in some "protected spot." None of the reports received identify the potential troublemakers.

Although the Assembly convened as scheduled and without incident, the US Embassy sees reason for continued watchfulness in rumors that the police are not solidly behind the government and in the fact that a scuffle last week in Caracas involved several army officers.

Official press releases show that the Assembly mustered only a bare quorum at its opening meeting and that about a third of those present were alternates rather than official delegates. This suggests that the opposition may have decided not to take part in the first order of business--the confirmation of Perez Jimenez as Acting President.



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State Department review completed

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